



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Jon Cupp 1-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

Boom!

Soldiers from Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment fired the howitzers on their M109A6 Paladins during the first-ever firing of the Modular Artillery Charge System in the combat zone by an entire Paladin battery March 13 on Camp Taji, Iraq. (See story page 4)

Mustang's FSC brings hot chow to outpost

By Sgt. 1st Class Kap Kim
2-1 Cav. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HOPE, Iraq - As the Mustang Battalion's Legionnaires found their way out of Forward Operating Base Rustamiyah and moved up to FOB Hope near Sadr City, they knew that relocating meant no more hot meals.

"Believe me, it makes a big difference," said Sgt. Ryan Green, Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd

Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. "It's a big morale booster to get some hot chow."

"It's just good to have some of those creature comforts sometimes," continued the Conroe, Texas native.

After their move, they lived on MREs, or Meals Ready to Eat, for almost every meal. So, their support company, Co. F, Forward Support Company, 1-8 acted quickly to make sure their guys wouldn't go without a hot meal everyday.

According to Sgt. 1st Class Angel Ortiz, the support company's senior food

service sergeant, from Toabaja, Puerto Rico, they brought out the big guns for Co. B through sometime in their inventory called the "containerized kitchen." This recreational vehicle trailer-type setup allows for the cooks to feed all the Soldiers at FOB Hope during both the breakfast and dinner meals.

Although Company B Soldiers moved into their Combat Outpost at FOB Hope

See **Chow** Page 2

Soldiers begin to appreciate Army chow

Chow

From Page 1

weeks ago, four food service specialists moved in with their containerized kitchen March 12, and they said they couldn't be happier.

"It feels really good to be out here," said Sgt. James Williams, a Food Service sergeant, of Natchitoches, La. "I love my job because I love to cook."

Currently, Williams and three other Soldiers are the only cooks from the support company to be assigned on this unique mission of feeding the Legion troops.

"They deserve it; they have a tougher job than we do," he said. "We just sit around and cook back here. I don't mind putting in my part to make theirs easier."

For Pfc. Robert Mullenix, one of the food service specialists who live and work on FOB Hope, although the mornings are early and the nights can be late, he is "loving it."

"Everyone out here appreciates us," he said. "This is the most appreciation I've gotten since I've been in Iraq."

According to Mullinix, working in the containerized kitchen is a lot better than its predecessor: the Mobile Kitchen Trailer.



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kap Kim 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

The food service specialists of Co. F, FSC, 1st Bn., 8th Cav. Regt., use the new and improved burners of the "containerized kitchen."

"It's pretty basic," he said about the design. "The MKT was tough, but this makes [cooking] easy."

Williams couldn't agree more about the design which allows them to have better burners; two, full-sized refrigerators rather than just an iced cooler; two food warmers; a sink with running water; a deep fryer; bigger ovens than before; and a generator that has an easy-access fuel

port.

"I love this mug ... it's amazing," he proclaimed. "With this, I'm a lot happier. They gave us the ability to do things quicker."

Green said he is happy that the cooks are happy doing their job. "It's always good when you can get a cook who likes his job because that means the food's going to be better."

Arabic Phrase of the Day

zuruf

**Defined:
hole**

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 75
Low: 55



Tomorrow

High: 77
Low: 54



Thursday

High: 79
Low: 52

Commanding General: Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr.
Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl
Command Information Supervisor: Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
NCOIC, Print Production: Sgt. Michael Garrett
Editor: Spc. Shea Butler
Staff Writers: Sgt. Nicole Kojetin, Spc. L.B. Edgar, Spc. Jeffrey Ledesma, Pfc. Ben Gable, Pfc. William Hatton
Contributing Writers: 1st Lt. Nicholas Paolini, Staff Sgt. Jon Cupp, Pfc.

Nathaniel Smith
Contact the *Daily Charge* at VOIP 242-4093, DSN 318-847-2855 or e-mail david.j.larsen@mnd-b.army.mil.

The Daily Charge is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the *Daily Charge* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 1st Cavalry Division. All editorial content of the *Daily Charge* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs Office.

Baghdad in Brief

Iraqi security forces help after suicide bombing at mosque

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LOYALTY, Iraq - At least four persons were killed and over 30 wounded when a suicide bomber targeted worshippers at a Shiite mosque in eastern Baghdad on March 19.

The bomb was detonated when guards began to search the attacker as he attempted to enter the mosque. The attack occurred around 12:30 p.m. near the Shorja marketplace.

Iraqi security forces and Soldiers with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division responded to the blast and sealed off the area.

The attack came as U.S. and Iraqi forces continue a security sweep aimed at reducing sectarian violence. The security crackdown has focused on reducing vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices by constructing barriers in marketplaces and other areas that have been traditional targets.

Cavalry Soldiers discover weapons cache

AL RASHEED, Iraq - Coalition forces discovered a weapons cache near Iraqi Highway 1, just south of Baghdad March 18.

Soldiers from Troop C, 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) discovered the cache during a combat patrol.

In the cache was a 120mm mortar round, 42 82mm mortar rounds, 79 60mm mortar rounds and an anti-personnel mine.

The contents of the cache were destroyed during a controlled detonation conducted by the explosive ordnance disposal team.



(Photo by 2nd Lt. Mike Daschel 2-12 Cav.)

Pfc. Jesse Stevens, from Redford, Mich, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, emplaces concertina wire at the new Joint Security Station Thrasher in western Baghdad.

New Joint Security Station

**By 1st Lt. Nicholas Paolini
2-12 Cav.**

BAGHDAD - The last couple of days seemed longer than usual for the Soldiers of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment. For the past four days, the Soldiers labored to build Joint Security Station Thrasher.

The construction is not yet complete; however, the company is already utilizing the JSS to plan and coordinate missions.

The entire battalion, tank crew members, infantrymen, engineers, and support personnel alike are involved in the establishment of the JSS. It is a large task to bring all of the supplies to the site, and it takes more than the Soldiers of 2-12 Cav to get the job done.

The scope of the project requires units from throughout Multi-National Division-Baghdad to assist in the construction. Engineers from the 887th Engineer Company continue to assist in the

emplacement of barriers which surround the JSS and protect the occupants, while 299th Forward Support Battalion provides the majority of the logistical support.

JSS Thrasher will house both Iraqi and coalition forces, 3rd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 10th Iraqi Army Division and Company D, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, which is attached to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. This Iraqi Army Battalion recently arrived with their military transition team from southern Iraq.

Thrasher will provide a constant coalition presence in southern Ghazaliya, the most violent neighborhood in the battalion's area of operations.

The Joint Security Station is called JSS Thrasher in honor of Sgt. Robert Thrasher, a 2-12 Cav Soldier killed in action on Feb. 11, 2007. Sgt. Thrasher died from combat wounds suffered during a joint cordon and search in southern Ghazaliya.

Field artillery fires new modular artillery charge system

By Staff Sgt. Jon Cupp
1-1 Cav. Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - While many artillerymen only get the opportunity to fire artillery pieces during training, Soldiers from Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment have already fired more than 1,100 rounds in real world missions to engage enemy targets in support of combat operations in theater.

Since the first calibration of the M109A6 Paladin howitzers in early December, Alpha Battery has supported combat operations every day by firing their Paladins. The unit has supported operations with everything from counterfire to suppressive fire missions as well as striking pre-planned targets. They have also cleared routes for combat missions along with providing base camp security.

Yet even with doing all this, one of the most memorable moments for these Field Artillery soldiers came March 13 as they

fired a new propellant.

"The new Modular Artillery Charge System (MACS) for their Paladins were utilized during their howitzer calibration," said Alpha Battery commander Capt. Derek Baird.

"We're on the brink of history," said Baird, who hails from Virginia Beach, Va., explaining that the event marked the first time ever that the MACS has been fired in the combat zone by an entire battery of Paladins.

The MACS system, used in conjunction with a projectile, according to Baird is a refined propellant that facilitates higher rates of fire and extends range capabilities for the howitzers. The pre-measured charges which are packaged in cylindrical, toilet paper roll- shaped canisters push or propel projectiles from the barrels of the howitzer.

The charges also help to lessen the work of the old way of measuring charges, whereby bag charges were cut and then unused portions had to be dis-

posed of-wasting powder, added Baird.

Alpha Battery will use the MACS in conjunction with a new munition they will receive training on and implement within the next few months-the Excalibur.

"This is all very exciting. Our firing of the MACS is in preparation to get Excalibur," said Baird. "This is the final step before it's fielded to us, and all of our crews have qualified on it."

Baird said his troopers have been quite fortunate to work with the howitzers as most soldiers in the field artillery branch have faced a cultural change over the past few years. Artillerymen are now serving in less traditional field artillery roles-with fewer opportunities to employ howitzers in anger.

"Now they're working more in roles that concentrate on doing foot patrols, pulling tower guard and doing cordon and searches," said Baird.

"One of the most important things for my Soldiers is the fact that they're actually getting to do artillery tasks, and for them this is great and I could not be more proud of their performance today," Baird added. "We're the only true 'hot gun' battery in theater-others may have only one gun firing at any given time in support of real world missions-we're using our entire battery all the time."

Thomson, Ga. native, 1st Lt. Sidney Wilson, a Platoon Leader for Alpha Battery said he was quite impressed with the MACS and hopes his Soldiers will remember the experience.

"They should take pride in being the first battery to fire these in theater," said Wilson. "When they go home, this is something they can tell their families about."

San Diego native Spc. Eduardo Briseno, a cannoneer for A Btry, who loads and fires howitzers, had his own take on what the day's firing meant to him.

"I love it, I can't really explain it. There's nothing else that compares with this and nothing else I'd rather be doing," said Briseno. "Knowing that we've made history today in firing the MACS, this really feels awesome."



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Jon Cupp 1-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

San Diego native Spc. Eduardo Briseno, a cannoneer who loads and fires howitzers for Alpha Battery, 1st Bn., 82nd FA Regt., prepares to load a charge into the barrel of a howitzer on an M109A6 Paladin, March 13 on Camp Taji, Iraq during the first-ever calibration firing of the Modular Artillery Charge System in the combat zone by an entire Paladin battery.

A desert reunion in the Kuwaiti sands

By Pfc. Nathaniel Smith
4-1 Inf. Public Affairs

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait -- Most people go home for family reunions. For two Soldiers here, the meeting was little farther away.

Lt. Col. Michael Sanders, 44, and Master Sgt. William Sanders, 42, are not most people. The brothers, who hadn't seen each other in three-and-a-half years, reunited half a world away in a combat zone while both answered their nation's call to service.

The last time these brothers, and brothers-in-arms saw each other was at a high school graduation ceremony in Portland, Maine. This meeting between the two is quite different as one of the brothers, Master Sgt. Sanders, is preparing to go into Iraq.

Lt. Col. Sanders said that watching his brother deploy to Iraq for the second time has made him appreciate what the spouses of service members go through watching their loved ones leave for war.

"I never realized how hard it was to see somebody deploy forward because you never think about it because you're always deploying forward," he said. "We train to do that. But we don't train to watch somebody deploy."

"If you'd asked me, I wouldn't have picked it this way."

Despite the circumstances and the austere surroundings, the Sanders brothers have been making the



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Timmons 4-1 Public Affairs)

Lt. Col. Michael Sanders (left), with the Security Assistance Office, at the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait City, poses with his brother Master Sgt. William Sanders, intelligence noncommissioned officer in charge for 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division outside a tent at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

most of this reunion by enjoying the simple things together: drinking coffee, talking and playing checkers.

"I kicked his butt," Master Sgt. Sanders said.

While the two brothers have spent a lot of time apart, they have both been united through serving in the Big Red One. Lt. Col. Sanders served with the 1st Infantry Division during Desert Storm.

"It's interesting how the Army is a family, the 1st Infantry Division is a family and we end up serving in the

same division at different times," Lt. Col. Sanders said. "That's a bond that's kind of hard to break."

The elder Sanders brother welcomed his younger sibling to the Army family by swearing him in at the beginning of his service.

Today, the brothers say they each benefits from having a brother in the commissioned and noncommissioned officer ranks.

"I'll do something and he'll tell me, 'Bill, that was a bonehead move,'" Master Sgt. Sanders said. "The open can-

dor that we have helps both of us out."

Lt. Col. Sanders is currently serving a 13-month assignment at the Security Assistance Office at the United States Embassy here, serving as an advisor to the Kuwaiti armed forces.

Master Sgt. Sanders is at Camp Buehring with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division serving as the intelligence noncommissioned officer in charge.